

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, JO

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SECRETARY'S MOSCOW TALKS; JORDANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS; NEW PRO-LIBYAN NEWSPAPER

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS, IPS, INA

1. SUMMARY, EDITORIAL COMMENT IN BEIRUT PRESS FOCUSES ON SECRETARY'S TALKS IN MOSCOW AND ON JORDANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. COMMENTATORS DIFFER WIDELY ON WHO HAS UPPER HAND AT PRESENT IN RUSSIAN-AMERICAN-SYRIAN TRIANGLE. MEANWHILE, FIRST ISSUE OF NEW PRO-LIBYAN ARABIC DAILY AS-SAFIR (THE AMBASSADOR) APPEARS ON SCENE, DECLARING ITSELF TO BE "THE VOICE OF THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE." END SUMMARY.

2. COMMENTING ON SECRETARY'S TALKS IN MOSCOW, LEADING INDEPENDENT ARABIC AN-NAHAR STRESSES SYRIAN ROLE AND THEN SOVIET ROLE IN TWO SEPARATE EDITORIALS. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL NOTES: "AMERICAN SOURCES EMPHASIZE THAT REASON UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR DR. KISSINGER'S COMPLAINT THAT DISPUTES EXIST BETWEEN

AMERICA AND RUSSIA OVER MIDEAST IS THAT AMERICAN SECRETARY IS GOING TO MOSCOW WITH FEELING THAT HIS COLLEAGUE GROMYKO HAS PLACED STICKS IN SPOKES OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT AND THAT PRICE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THESE STICKS WILL BE VERY HIGH. WHAT IS MEANT BY THIS, WHETHER INFORMATION OF AMERICAN SOURCES IS TRUE OR NOT, IS TO SHOW THAT SYRIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO FOLLOW EGYPT'S EXAMPLE WERE IT NOT FOR SOVIET PRESSURE. THIS IS OVER-SIMPLIFICATION AND DEPARTURE FROM REALITY. WHAT GOVERNS SYRIAN ATTITUDE IS KISSINGER'S FAILURE TO OBTAIN ANYTHING FROM ISRAEL FOR SYRIA. EVEN IF 'BIG BAZAAR' IS HELD BETWEEN BREZHNEV AND KISSINGER OVER DISARMAMENT ... SYRIAN IMPASSE WILL BE MOST DIFFICULT TO SOLVE ... WITHOUT PAYING PRICE TO SYRIA."

3. INSIDE-PAGE COMMENTARY IN AN-NAHAR NOTES: "SOVIET BET ON NIXON CONTINUES.... MOSCOW REMAINS PRISONER OF THIS BET, AND IT REMAINS IN INTEREST OF SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING NIXON BY FACILITATING HIS FOREIGN VICTORIES.... HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT KREMLIN WILL NOT USE CLUB OF THREAT OVER DISENGAGEMENT IN ORDER TO MAKE NEW GAINS OVER 'DETAILS'."

4. INDEPENDENT LISAN AL-HAL BELIEVES U.S. WILL OFFER CONCESSIONS: "IT IS PERHAPS USEFUL TO SAY THAT KISSINGER'S TRIP TO SOVIET UNION THIS TIME APPEARS LESS BRIGHT THAN HIS PREVIOUS TRIPS. REASON, AS IS KNOWN, IS COOLNESS OF SOVIET UNION'S RELATIONS WITH U.S. BECAUSE OF FORMER'S ANNOYANCE WITH LATTER'S MIDEAST POLICY.... FROM NOW UNTIL END OF KISSINGER'S MISSION IN MOSCOW, ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT U.S. WILL OFFER MOSCOW ALL CONCESSIONS IT WANTS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN 'GREAT DETENTE', AND PARTICULARLY IN ORDER TO BRING ABOUT DISENGAGEMENT IN GOLAN."

5. COMMENTING ON JORDANIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AN-NAHAR WRITES: "INFORMATION RECEIVED... FROM ARAB DIPLOMATC SOURCES REVEALS THERE IS 'CERTAIN CHANGE' IN AMERICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD KING USSEIN. THIS CHANGE HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN TWO MAIN ISSUES -- ARMS AND ATTITUDE TOWARD PALESTINIANS. IN FIELD OF ARMS, WASHINGTON DID NOT RESPOND TO ALL OF KING HUSSEIN'S REQUESTS, USING EXISTENCE OF 'SHORTAGE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF MILITARY ALLOCATIONS' AS REASON. REGARDING PALESTINIANS, WASHINGTON ADVISED KING TO REACH 'FORMULA OF UNDERSTANDING' WITH PALESTINIANS, SPECIFICALLY PLO, BEFORE 'RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE' ARE DISCUSSED AT GENEVA CONFERENCE."

6. LEADING LEFTIST PRO-FEDAYEEN AL-MUHARRIR WRITES: "OF COURSE, U.S. DID NOT PERSUADE KING HUSSEIN TO CHANGE HIS ATTITUDE OUT OF ADMIRATION FOR BEAUTY OF PALESTINIAN

EYES. IT DID SO BECAUSE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE HAS CONFIRMED TO IT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH SETTLEMENT OF MIDEAST CRISIS AS LONG AS THIS PEOPLE REMAINS UNABLE TO OBTAIN EVEN A MINIMUM OF THEIR BASIC RIGHTS.... BASIS OF MIDEAST CRISIS IS NOT MERE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM ALL THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, BUT PALESTINIAN IMPASSE."

7. FIRST ISSUE OF NEW PRO-LIBYAN AND NASSERITE ARABIC DAILY AS-SAFIR (THE AMBASSADOR) APPEARS TODAY. OPENING EDITORIAL, CAST IN FORM OF STATEMENT OF PURPOSE OF CHIEF EDITOR TALAL SALMAN, STATES IN PART: "RULING GROUPS IN MANY ARAB STATES HAVE MONOPOLIZED INFORMATION MEDIA, HAVE IMPOSED PATTERNS ON SUPERICIAL THOUGHT AND RAISED EMPTY SLOGANS THROUGH THEM, AND THEN MOBLIZED THEM TO SERVE THEIR REGIMES ALONG WITH OTHER MEANS OF REPRESSION. IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WHERE LIBERAL SYSTEM OF DEMOCRATIC APPEARANCE EXISTS, ONE CLASS HAS MONOPOLIZED INFORMATION MEDIA AND USED IT TO SERVE ITS INTERESTS, RELYING ON DISTORTION OF POLITICAL CONCEPTS AND NATIONAL FEELINGS OF CITIZENS AND HIDING ITS CLASS INTERESTS IN CLOUD OF CONFESSIONAL EMOTIONS.... THIS IS A NEW PAPER, WITH A LIMITED MISSION: TO DEFEND THE ARAB NATION.... THIS IS A NEW PAPER, TRYING TO BE THE VOICE OF THOSE WHO HAVE NO VOICE, THE VOICE OF THE OPPRESSED OF THE EARTH, OF VILLAGERS, OF WORKERS, OF STUDENTS, OF SMALL WAGE-EARNERS. THIS IS A NEW NEWSPAPER, WHICH SEES NOTHING 'SPECIAL', NOTHING NON-ARAB, IN LEBANON. IT STRIVES TO BE LEBANON'S PAPER IN THE ARAB NATION AND THE ARAB NATIONS' PAPER IN LEBANON."
GODLEY

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